



EDUCATION COMMITTEE

March 4, 2022

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent 168 towns and cities.

HB 5283 An Act Concerning The Education Cost Sharing Grant Formula And The Funding Of Other Education Programs.

CCM supports HB 5283 as it would, among other things, make changes to address education financial equity by accelerating the phase-in funding the education cost sharing (ECS) grant for towns that are underfunded through 2024, rather 2027. The bill would do so by protecting the other towns by not accelerating those municipalities that will see a reduction of funding by 2027. In addition, the proposal would fully fund interdistrict magnet school, agricultural science and technology education (VO-Ag) centers, state charter schools and charter schools based on student needs.

The current mechanism to provide education funding is inadequate and inequitable to meet the needs of Connecticut's student population. A particular drawback of the current system is that it fails to account for a student-based approach to improve the outcomes for all students. These outcomes can, among other things, result in higher test scores, higher earnings later in life, and promote additional years of educational completion.

The current educational finance system is overly reliant on local property tax revenue. In the country, Connecticut is one of the state's most reliant on the local property tax to fund public education. The cost for public education in our state is over \$12.3 billion and municipal property taxpayers fund 53.3% of that amount (\$6.6 billion), with the State and federal governments providing the balance. As a result, our system does not consider the vast disparities of wealth and student needs. English Learners, students who are economically disadvantaged, and students navigating their educational system in communities that experience concentrated poverty, all deserve to be funded at a level that makes a real and tangible difference.

While necessary federal funding has provided a "bridge" in reducing the racial funding gap for schools, additional support is necessary for sustainability. This bill would reduce those economic disparities, with a focus towards improving student outcomes, while also ensuring funding is viable in future years.

CCM urges the Committee to **favorably report HB 5283.**

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If you have any questions, please contact Mike Muszynski, State and Federal Relations Manager of CCM at mmuszynski@ccm-ct.org or 203-500-7556.